II. *HISTOIRE NATURELLE DES ANIMAUX PLANTES ET MINERAUX, qui entrent dans la Compoſition de la THERIAQUE D' ANDROMACHUS; par M. Charas In* 12. *A* Paris.

AS there are above 60 ſorts of different druggs, which are ingredients of this no leſs difficult than famous and uſefull Medicine, which was invented by *Andromachus*, Phyſitian to *Nero*; and as thoſe drugs are ſubject to be ſophiſticated, and require different preparations, ſo there are few men, that are ſufficiently skill'd to chuſe aright all thoſe ingredients, or dextrous and patient enough to prepare them well. The Author of this Book treats of this celebrated medicament, and not only teacheth the way of compoſing it, but interſperſeth many not in conſiderable remarkes touching the nature and vertues of all the Druggs, which compoſe it.

He is of opinion, that commonly there are committed many faults in preparing the Ingredients, of which the Theriack is made up. E. g. When the Vipers are prepared, the cuſtom is to whip them; thereby to make all the venom go to the head, which is cut off when they are ſufficiently enraged. They alſo boile the fleſh, thereby to draw forth what venemouſneſs may yet reſt therein, and their bones are caſt away as uſeleſs. Whereas he ſaith, that it being by Experience evident, that all the venom of the Viper is in his Teeth and Jaws, that whipping is not only to no purpoſe, but alſo dangerous, in regard that the Spirits being chafed and irritated may beget venom in the body, where was none. He aſſerts alſo, that the water, in which the viper-fleſh is boyled, carryes away all the vertue; and that the bones that are thrown away are no leſs uſeful, than the fleſh itſelf.

He takes further notice, that *Opium* hath not thoſe ill qualities, which many aſcribe to it, who teach, that it ſuffocateth the natural heat, and that there need no more than 3. graines to diſpatch the luſtieſt man: whereas he aſſures, that himſelf hath taken 6 graines of it without having been more ſtupifyed by it, than he uſed to be; and that inſtead of being debilitated, he hath found himſelf ſtrengthned by it. He adds, that he knows a man of a conſtitution delicate enough, who hath taken of it to 30. grains, and yet not found any troubleſome accident upon it; on the contrary that the Patient hath found himſelf ſo well after it, that he continued to take the ſame doſe twice or thrice a week.

He obſerves alſo, that whereas it hath been diſputed, what might cauſe the difference of Colour in the White and Black *Pepper*, ſome believing, that Pepper gathered before it was ripe, looked white, but became black in ripening; others pretending, that as the ſame Vine-ſtocks, which produce white grapes, do not bear black ones, ſo they are different plants, that bear Pepper of different colour; our Author affirms, that this diverſity of Colours proceeds thence, that the black Pepper is covered by its skin, which the white is bared of &c.

ERRATA *in* Numb. 51.

Pag. 1028. l. 7, *r*, by a bank of. *ibid.* l. 9. *r.* preſerve this bank. *p* 1039. l. 33. *r.* botles well ſealed up.

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